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CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Oranienburg

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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11 December 1953

REFERENCES

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PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 11 November 1953, the Weisse Stadt Settlement in Oranienburg was occupied by about 1,000 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank, artillery, signal or motor transport insignia including some with blue-bordered black epaulets with engineer or signal insignia. On 9 November, about 80 soldiers received basic infantry training. Six AA guns, apparently of 37-mm, were parked in front of building No 35.¹

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2. On 11 November, the SS Kaserne and former concentration camp quartered about 1,000 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank, artillery or motor transport insignia. On 9 November, about 12 soldiers engaged in technical duty on 3 T-34/85 tanks. Motor vehicles moved out of the gate south of the building No 150.²

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3. On 6 November, the Weisse Stadt Settlement was occupied to capacity by about 3,000 troops. On several days between 25 October and 6 November, troops, apparently recruits, engaged in close-order drill. Eight or nine rocket launchers were parked in front of a shed. tanks were parked in a garage.

4. The following shipments passed through the Oranienburg freight station between 6 and 14 November:

At 9:30 a.m. on 6 November. Six boxcars with troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and 2 sealed boxcars, came from the direction of Dannenwalde and proceeded toward Boetzow, Havel.

At 4:47 p.m. on 7 November. Eight boxcars with troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets came from the direction of Velten and proceeded toward Fuerstenberg at 9:20 p.m.

At 4:47 p.m. on 11 November. Eight boxcars with troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets came from the direction of Velten and proceeded toward Eberswalde at 9:21 p.m.

At 8:20 a.m. on 12 November. Seven boxcars with troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and 2 sealed boxcars came from the direction of Fuerstenberg/Havel and proceeded toward Boetzow/Havel at 4:10 p.m.

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At 3:20 a.m. on 12 November, Two boxcars with troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and 4 sealed boxcars came from the direction of Fuerstenberg/Havel and proceeded toward Velten at 11:58 a.m.

At 1:45 p.m. on 12 November, Fifteen boxcars with troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, 6 sealed boxcars and 4 flatcars with sideracks with billeting equipment came from the direction of Loewenberg and proceeded toward Wustermark.

At 11:58 p.m. on 13 November, A train of 3 express coaches with troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, 14 sealed boxcars, 1 flatcar with sideracks [redacted] and 1 flatcar with sideracks with an artillery piece came from the direction of Wustermark and proceeded toward Bernau via the Berlin Outer Freight Ring.

At 0:40 a.m. on 14 November, Nine boxcars with troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, 1 flatcar with sideracks with 1 BA-64 armored scout car came from the direction of Wustermark and proceeded toward Templin.

At 11:50 a.m. on 14 November, Five boxcars with troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and 1 sealed boxcar came from the direction of Velten and proceeded toward Fuerstenberg/Havel.

At 10:15 a.m. on 14 November, Eight boxcars with troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets came from the direction of Boetzow/Havel and proceeded toward Templin at 2:03 p.m.

5. On 14 November, the Weisse Stadt Settlement was occupied to capacity. On 11 November, 8 canvas-covered guns and several trucks were parked in front of one of the buildings.
6. On 6 and 7 November, 12 to 15 uniformed women entered the SS Kaserne and the concentration camp. From 20 to 25 uniformed women with small suitcases and other luggage came from the direction of the railroad station on 7 November.
7. On 7 November, about 2,000 troops including 40 uniformed women and most of them wearing red-bordered black epaulets assembled at the memorial on Busch Strasse, corner of Bernauer Alley. At about 12:30 p.m., following the ceremony, the bulk of the troops paraded to the Filmpalast motion picture theater on Berliner Strasse and the other troops marched to the concentration camp and toward the Weisse Stadt Settlement respectively.
8. On 11 November, a train of 4 boxcars with troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and an undetermined number of flatcars with about 12 to 14 new armored personnel carriers was unloaded at the Oranienburg railroad station. The unit subsequently marched toward Sachsenhausen.
9. At the beginning of November, trucks [redacted] loaded with billeting equipment and food stuff, were repeatedly seen en route from the SS Kaserne and concentration camp toward the Weisse Stadt Settlement.
10. On the evenings after 9 November, 6 to 8 trucks occupied by troops moved out of the SS Kaserne and returned at about 11 p.m. Soldiers of the tank training unit were daily seen in front of buildings No 149 and 150, engaged in training with 2 T-34 tanks which had a green coat of paint, and with dummy tanks. Eight trucks of the driver school unit made trips to Oranienburg almost daily.
11. At the beginning of November, 3 or 4 trucks, each occupied by about 20 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, were daily seen moving out of the Weisse Stadt toward the target range near the Klinkerwerke. [redacted] On 10 November, trucks [redacted] each occupied by about 20 officers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and carrying luggage, entered the [redacted]

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12. [] reconditioning work in the section of the Weisse Stadt Settlement which quarters arm units had to be completed by 15 November [] pertinent bills had to be turned in by 15 December. Major Sherback (fmu), supply officer of the tank unit quartered in building No 9 [] unit commander was one Lieutenant Colonel Aterlee (fmu). [] building No 13 which had hitherto served as quarters was to be converted into a school building for the tank unit. Some of the walls were torn down. No lavatories were installed. Building No 8 housed a topographic unit.
13. At about 3 p.m. on 4 November, about 35 to 40 new [] armored personnel carriers were unloaded at the Oranienburg railroad station. Nineteen of the vehicles moved to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. At about 3 p.m. on 6 November, a train carrying about 30 to 40 B4-64 armored scout cars was seen at the Oranienburg railroad station. [] could not determine whether the vehicles were unloaded there.⁴
14. On 11 November, buildings No 14 and 15 in the Weisse Stadt quartered a signal unit whose commanding officer or supply officer was one Colonel Shuravkov (fmu). [] Buildings No 6 and 13 quartered troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia and buildings No 11 and 12 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. Building No 8 housed troops of the topographical unit. []
15. At about 2 p.m. on 31 October, 20 flatcars with sideracks carrying 10 AA guns and 10 trucks [] and 4 boxcars with troops were seen in Oranienburg, en route toward Krammen. At about 2 p.m. on 5 November, 5 boxcars with troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and 20 flatcars with sideracks carrying 10 AA guns and 10 trucks [] were seen in Oranienburg, en route toward Krammen. []
1. [] Comment. The restricted Weisse Stadt Settlement is still occupied as was observed in late October. [] The occupation strength in paragraph 1 has considerably been underestimated, while that in paragraph 3 approximates the actual strength. []
- [] The 53d Mtrcl Bn seems to be quartered in buildings No 6, 9 and 13, with building No 13 serving only as school building. The topographical unit is confirmed stationed in building No 9. It is believed that buildings No 14 and 15 quarter the unidentified signal battalion, buildings No 11 and 12 an artillery unit, probably the 16th (?) Gds RL Bn of the 25th Tank Div. The quarters of the 219th (?) AAA Regt of the division are still undetermined. There have so far been no indications that the division headquarters is stationed in the Weisse Stadt. []
- [] Major Sherback (fmu), written Sherback in the present report, was reported as officer of the topographic unit in September 1953. However, [] paragraph 12 in the present report indicate that he belongs to the 53d Mtrcl Bn. One Colonel Aterlee (fmu), whose name is unusual, is reported for the first time. Colonel Shuravkov (fmu), so far carried as lieutenant colonel, was reported to

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have been officer of the topographic unit in September 1953 and, in October 1953, officer of the motorcycle unit. Since, however, in May 1952, Shuravkov (fnu) was for the first time reported to have been stationed in Oranienburg Castle, which then quartered the unidentified signal battalion, it is believed that, in correspondence with paragraph 14 of the present report, Shuravkov is commander or supply officer of the signal battalion.

25X1 2. [REDACTED] Comment. The information in paragraph 10 again confirms the tank training battalion and driver school of the 25th Tank Div as being stationed in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp.

25X1 3. [REDACTED] Comment. Probably, personnel exchange movements.

25X1 4. [REDACTED] Comment. The armored personnel carriers and armored scout cars are believed to have predominantly been bound for the KVP.

25X1 5. [REDACTED] Comment. The shipment on 31 October is reported for the first time.
25X1 [REDACTED] the shipment on 5 November came from Fuersten-
25X1 berg and went to Velten. It carried a unit of the 31st AAA Div. [REDACTED]
25X1 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 25X1
[REDACTED]